

Support for HB 5291.

Labor Committee Hearing, February 28, 2012

Linda Sanchez  
1532 Park Street, Apt B1  
Hartford, CT  
(860) 779/5285

I am writing in favor of increasing the minimum wage. As a minimum wage worker myself, I hope my situation will give you some insight on how difficult it is for families to survive in today's economy because of the growing cost of everything, and the growing inequality among CT families.

I have worked at a small Dunkin' Donuts here in Hartford for the last year and a half. My pay has never gone up from the minimum wage. I am frequently the only person working there, managing the counter, the drive-through, and the baked goods all at once. They certainly get more than 8.25 out of me each hour. I know Dunkin' Donuts can afford more.

I am the sole breadwinner for a family of five. I do not think I need to go into too much detail for you to know how difficult and painful it can be to support so many on so little. Every dollar I earn is spent on my family, here in Connecticut.

This has been my situation for a long time. I was briefly unemployed before finding this job. Before that I worked at a Subway franchise for three years in nearly the same conditions. My husband is still unable to find work. I am not going to train at this job for another opportunity some day, even as manager I would make only dollars more a day. There is no bright future in this job.

The economy is different now then when I was growing up, and it has caused our low minimum wage to leave too many families in poverty. Please vote to increase the minimum wage.